

LIVESTOCK

THE HORSE.

A Popular Error.

In the handling of live stock I do not know of a mistake so common among all classes of men, aside from the veterinarian, than the one connected with the common colic of the horse. Scarcely without an exception when the horse is cramping from the colic, he is thought to have something the matter with his kidneys. Cramps in the intestines from accumulation of gases or some irritating food cause him to stretch himself with the fore and hind feet wide apart. No doubt this gives some relief by tightening the muscles across the abdomen. It is not an indication of any fault with either the kidneys or the bladder. It is a physiological fact that spasm in the bowels acts reflexly upon the bladder, making this latter organ inoperative for the time being. The remedy, in almost every case, is nitre, or some remedy directed to relieve the bladder or the kidneys. The correct remedy would be to give a purge to remove the irritating substance from the bowels, and anodynes to relieve the pain. The bladder, except in cases of long protracted colic or inflammation of the bowels, will take care of itself. Diseases of the kidneys are quite rare in the horse, and when they do appear seldom come with an acute attack. Remember, then, if the horse is rolling on the ground, getting up and lying down, bloated, and stretching himself out, the chances are a hundred to one that it is colic, or some other disease, and no fault whatever with the bladder, although his actions might indicate a distention of that organ. GEO. H. GLOVER,

Colorado Agricultural College.

The Brittle Hoof.

An English veterinarian says that the brittle hoof of some horses before being shod, when young, is likely due to the digestive organs, or in the food supply. The intimate connection between the horn of the feet, the skin of the animal and the lining of the alimentary canal is no so generally known as it should be, and our efforts to build good feet are often best

directed when we prescribe a more liberal diet and one in which the elements of horn are abundant. Gelatin-our foods, of which linseed stands at the head for horses, are calculated to supply the binding material that is wanting in brittle hoof, but there must be power of appropriation, which may be aided by such things as clumba, potash, soda or dilute mineral acids, which enables the stomach to better deal with the food. The robbery committed by worms may be at the root of shelly feet. The intimacy between the skin and digestion is recognized in a practical way by most men, for they readily associate a hide-bound condition with worms, but do not carry the comparison to the feet.

Alfalfa for Horses.

When trouble follows the feeding of alfalfa to horses, it may be set down that the trouble is with the feeding, not with the alfalfa. In other words, if the horses are not used to an alfalfa diet, the change ought to be made gradually. The high protein of the alfalfa naturally acts as a stimulant to the horse and this is noticeable in the increased demands upon the urinary and perspiratory glands, where disorders and complications are most likely to result.

For colts or growing horses alfalfa hay or pasture is admirable adapted to produce strong vigorous growth.

One thing is important with the alfalfa fed horse—that it be given plenty of exercise; otherwise the animal is apt to become soft and easily sweated. Alfalfa is the best possible feed for mares with foals. Let her run on alfalfa hay, while she is carrying her unborn colt. There is nothing else so good for her.

Alfalfa develops the colt, and the mother so fed has plenty of milk for its nourishment at this fast growing period. The colt's digestive system quickly adapts itself to the conditions of feeding and you will have no trouble later on.

A horse needs much less grain when fed alfalfa hay, and has more life and spirit than when fed upon any other hay. Alfalfa has great restorative powers, and having no hairs upon stems or leaves, has no tendency to cause heaves in horses.

ALFALFA FOR HORSES.

There seems to be an almost universal opinion among horsemen, and especially among those that are raising heavy horses, that no other grass or combination of grasses equals or even approaches the value of alfalfa as a pasture for horses; and from an economical point of view it certainly has no equal, as it will furnish so much more feed an acre than any other grass. It will not only pasture more horses an acre, but it will produce horses of greater weight, larger bones and stronger muscles.

A horse that has been reared in an alfalfa pasture and fed a light ration of alfalfa all winter makes one of the finest horses to be found in any market today. To produce a horse of the highest type, with the cleanest bone, the best-developed muscle, the best temperament and the greatest action and finish, nitrogenous alfalfa is used, and in no other way. It is the most essential element of nutrition, so cheaply and so abundantly available as it can be by feeding alfalfa.

The most successful producers of both heavy and light horses are today using alfalfa extensively in the development of their young horses. Its value for this purpose is not recognized by the Kansas feeder alone, for after seeing Kansas alfalfa-grown horses, Eastern breeders, where alfalfa cannot be grown, are sending their colts to Kansas alfalfa fields to be developed as they could not be at home.

A majority of horse owners are inclined to waste hay in feeding horses—that is, they feed more than is necessary for the maintenance of the horse and more than he can economically take care of. This is true of other kinds of hay as well as of alfalfa.

Either heavy or light horses that are doing regular, steady work should not, if one wishes to feed economically, have more than one pound of hay per hundred pounds of live weight. That is, a thousand-pound horse should receive ten pounds of hay a day and a fifteen-hundred-pound horse fifteen pounds a day.

A fifteen-hundred-pound horse that is doing steady work should have about four pounds of hay with his morning feed, the same amount at night. Many horses will eat thirty or forty pounds of hay a day if they have free access to it. If a horse is

allowed to eat such quantities, half of it is wasted, and if he is eating that amount of alfalfa hay, it is worse than wasted, for it does the horse an injury. From two to two and one-half pounds of digestible protein is all that an ordinary horse can utilize in a day, and in one hundred pounds of alfalfa there are eleven pounds of digestible protein. This fare of alfalfa if too heavily fed is likely to cause kidney disorder, and may even be responsible for abortion in pregnant mares that are fed too liberal a ration of it. If it does not cause abortion, weak unhealthy foals will be the result.

Have alfalfa fed judiciously to pregnant mares, heavy or light work horses and it is beneficial and should be used wherever it is obtainable, and it should never be used as the exclusive roughage. Some objection is made to it on account of causing looseness of bowels and m... ..

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RAW MATERIAL AND FINISHED PRODUCT.

A feature of the National Stock Show at Denver which opens on January 18th, will be the Grain and Forage Exhibit. It may seem odd at first blush to exhibit grain, grasses and roots at a stock show, but it does not seem strange when it is remembered that these products constitute the raw material and the live stock the finished product. The idea of this exhibit was born of inquiry at the first show from eastern visitors, "What do you make these cattle out of?" The grain and forage exhibit is to show the "cause" and the fine cattle and stock might be labeled "the result." This feature will be unusually strong at the coming show. Prof. W. H. Olin will have it in charge and no one who attends the show should fail to see it. The exhibit this year is divided between irrigated and unirrigated products and produced below 7,000 feet elevation and above that elevation. It will be interesting to even the farmers and stockmen of Colorado and will give them some pointers upon what is possible under specified conditions.